

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application, and claims 21-24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions.

- I. Claims 1-20, drawn to an aqueous acidic iron-phosphorus bath, an aqueous acidic iron-phosphorus electroplating bath, and a process for electrodepositing an iron-phosphorus alloy on a conductive substrate classified in class 205, subclass 258.
- II. Claims 21-24, drawn to a conductive substrate having an iron-phosphorus alloyed deposited thereon, classified in class 428, subclass 544+.

An election has been required by the Examiner because the Examiner considers the two inventions to be distinct and independent from each other.

Applicants respectfully traverses the restriction requirement and requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement since it would not be a serious burden on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in the application. Although claims 21-24 are directed to a conductive substrate having an iron-phosphorus alloy deposited thereon, these claims require that the deposited alloy is formed by "electrodeposition from the bath of claim 1." The acidic iron phosphorus bath of claim 1 and the electroplating bath utilized in claims 21-24 are the same. Accordingly, even though the claims of the two inventions are patentably distinct, the search required of the Examiner would not be burdensome.

However, in order to provide a complete response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the invention of Group I, namely, claims 1-20 for further prosecution in this application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 have been provisionally elected, and claims 21-24 have been withdrawn pending the filing of one or more divisional applications.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 under Attorney Docket No. **ATOTP0110US**.

Respectfully submitted,

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